

Battle of Fort Stedman

This evening, I committed myself to identifying the battle and its details in the (undated) letter of Charles H. Daniels (my great-great grandfather) to his wife, Mary Jane Callahan Daniels. Building on the records made available through Rob Coldwell's spirited research, I compared the details in the letter to several possibilities. The 205th Pennsylvania Regiment was engaged in three significant battles in the Petersburg Campaign, Battle of Hatcher's Run (February 1865), The Battle of Fort Stedman (March 1865) and the Third Battle of Petersburg (or Petersburg Breakthrough, April 1865).

The references Charles makes accord with what the historical record provides, in particular:

[a] "the Johnnies had taken one of our forts"

[b] "we charged on them and we got and took the fort again"

[c] "there was not one man killed in our regiment but there was nine wounded slitly"

[d] "They drumm as soon as they seen us and then we charge on them and runned them out of the fort and then fired on them and we killed about two hundred of them recollect this is what our regament done and there was a regament on each side of us."

[e] "they commenced fighting about four oclock on saturday morning and it lasted about five hours with us than the rebs histed a white flag"

The following links will provide the warrants that support my hypothesis.

[205th Pennsylvania Infantry](#)

[Fort Stedman battle details.](#)

[Battle of Fort Stedman](#)

[Fort Stedman Historical Marker](#)

The attack on Fort Stedman was the last offensive action of the Army of Northern Virginia, which laid down its arms two weeks later at Appomattox Court House. It appears then, that the letter was written between the two battles of March 25 and April 2, 1865.

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